

NETWORK GROUP PICKUPABSTRACT

A system and apparatus for enabling supplementary service
5 functions, such as group pickup, to be implemented in a communication
network having one or more local servers. The group pickup system is
adapted to enable one group member to automatically receive or manually
pick up another group member's call from anywhere within the network,
including outside the local server in a multiserver network. The group pickup
10 system includes an automatic mode unit for enabling the system to pro-
actively seek a group member to take a call and a manual mode unit for
enabling the system to search for an alerting group member. The system
further includes a local connect unit and a remote connect unit to establish
local or remote connections to a group member, respectively. A remote
15 search unit enables the system to request a remote search. A
queue/dequeue unit is provided for selecting a group member from a group
list. A call establishing unit is provided for establishing a connection between
the call and the group member and an answer unit is provided to complete
the connection. A notification unit may be provided to notify the system of the
20 completed connection. A release links unit may also be provided to release
any temporary links used in establishing the connection. An exception
handler may also be provided to deal with any error conditions which may
occur.